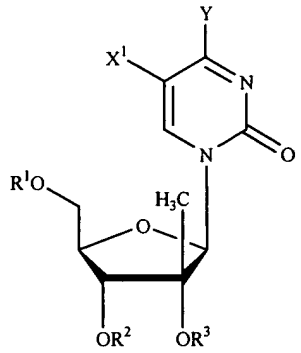
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-82, 84, 85, 87, 88, 91-99, and 103-129 (cancelled)

Claim 83 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ method for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of Hepatitis C virus infection in a host of claim 89, comprising administering an anti-virally effective amount of a compound of Formula V:



(V)

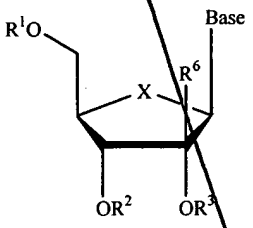
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, wherein:

R^1, R^2 and R^3 are independently H; ~~phosphate (including monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, or a stabilized phosphate prodrug)~~ phosphate; stabilized phosphate prodrug; acyl ~~(including lower acyl)~~; alkyl ~~(including lower alkyl)~~; sulfonate ester; alkyl or arylalkyl sulfonyl; methanesulfonyl; benzyl, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents; a lipid; a phospholipid; an amino acid; a carbohydrate; a peptide; a cholesterol; or other pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* is capable of providing a compound wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are independently H or phosphate;

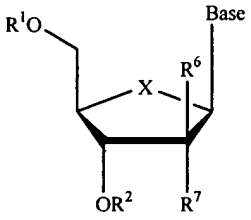
X^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, chloro, bromo, fluoro, iodo, OR^4, NR^4NR^5 or SR^4; and

R^4 and R^5 are independently hydrogen, acyl ~~(including lower acyl)~~, or ~~alkyl (including but not limited to methyl, ethyl, propyl, and cyclopropyl)~~.

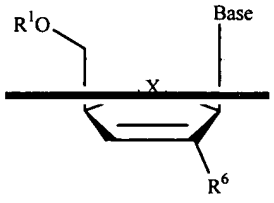
Claim 86 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ method for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host of claim 89, comprising administering an anti-virally effective amount of a compound of Formula X, or XI ~~or XII~~:



(X)



(XI)



~~(XII)~~

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, wherein:

Base is a ~~purine or~~ pyrimidine base ~~as defined herein~~;

R^1, R^2 and R^3 are independently H; ~~phosphate (including monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, or a stabilized phosphate prodrug)~~ ~~phosphate (including monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, or a stabilized phosphate prodrug)~~ phosphate; stabilized phosphate prodrug; acyl ~~(including lower acyl)~~; alkyl ~~(including lower alkyl)~~; sulfonate ester; alkyl or arylalkyl sulfonyl; methanesulfonyl; benzyl, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents; a lipid; a phospholipid; an amino acid; a carbohydrate; a peptide; a cholesterol; or other pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* is capable of providing a compound wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are independently H or phosphate;

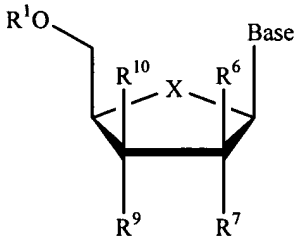
R^6 is hydroxy, alkyl, azido, cyano, alkenyl, alkynyl, Br-vinyl, -C(O)O(alkyl), -O(acyl), -O(alkyl), -O(alkenyl), chloro, bromo, fluoro, iodo, NO_2, NH_2, -NH(lower alkyl), -NH(acyl), -N(lower alkyl)$_2$, -N(acyl)$_2$;

R^7 is OR^3, hydroxy, alkyl, azido, cyano, alkenyl, alkynyl, Br-vinyl, -C(O)O(alkyl), -O(acyl), -O(alkyl), -O(alkenyl), chlorine, bromine, iodine, NO_2, NH_2, -NH(lower alkyl), -NH(acyl), -N(lower alkyl)$_2$, -N(acyl)$_2$; and

X is O, S, SO_2 or CH_2.

A1 cont'd

Claim 89 (currently amended): A method for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising administering an anti-virally effective amount of a compound of Formula XVII:



(XVII)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable <u>or prodrug</u> thereof, <u>optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent,</u> wherein:

Base is a ~~purine or~~ pyrimidine base ~~as defined herein~~;

R^1 and R^2 are independently H; ~~phosphate (including monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, or a stabilized phosphate prodrug)~~ ~~phosphate (including monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, or a stabilized phosphate prodrug)~~ <u>phosphate; stabilized phosphate prodrug;</u> acyl ~~(including lower acyl)~~; alkyl ~~(including lower alkyl)~~; sulfonate ester; alkyl or arylalkyl sulfonyl; methane-sulfonyl; benzyl, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents; a lipid; a phospholipid; an amino acid; a carbohydrate; a peptide; a cholesterol; or other pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* is capable of providing a compound wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are independently H or phosphate;

R^6 is hydroxy, alkyl, azido, cyano, alkenyl, alkynyl, Br-vinyl, -C(O)O(alkyl), -O(acyl), -O(alkyl), -O(alkenyl), chloro, bromo, fluoro, iodo, NO_2, NH_2, -NH(lower alkyl), -NH(acyl), -N(lower alkyl)$_2$, -N(acyl)$_2$;

R^7 is OR^2, hydroxy, alkyl, azido, cyano, alkenyl, alkynyl, Br-vinyl, -C(O)O(alkyl), -O(acyl), -O(alkyl), -O(alkenyl), chlorine, bromine, iodine, NO_2, NH_2, -NH(lower alkyl), -NH(acyl), -N(lower alkyl)$_2$, -N(acyl)$_2$;

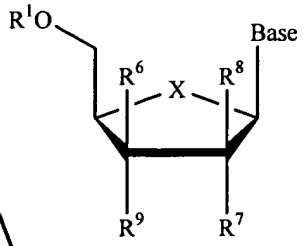
R^9 is hydrogen, OR^2, hydroxy, alkyl, azido, cyano, alkenyl, alkynyl, Br-vinyl, -C(O)O(alkyl), -O(acyl), -O(alkyl), -O(alkenyl), chlorine, bromine, iodine, NO_2, NH_2, -NH(lower alkyl), -NH(acyl), -N(lower alkyl)$_2$, -N(acyl)$_2$;

R^{10} is H, alkyl, chlorine, bromine or iodine; and

A1 contd

X is O, S, SO_2 or CH_2.

Claim 90 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ method for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host of claim 89, comprising administering an anti-virally effective amount of a compound of Formula XVIII:



(XVIII)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, wherein:

Base is a ~~purine or~~ pyrimidine base ~~as defined herein~~;

R^1 and R^2 are independently H; ~~mono-, di- or triphosphate~~; phosphate; a stabilized phosphate prodrug; acyl; alkyl; sulfonate ester; alkyl or arylalkyl sulfonyl; methane-sulfonyl; benzyl, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents; a lipid; a phospholipid; an amino acid; a carbohydrate; a peptide; a cholesterol; or other pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* is capable of providing a compound wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently H or phosphate;

R^7 ~~and R^9~~ is ~~independently hydrogen~~, OR^2, alkyl ~~(including lower alkyl)~~, alkenyl, alkynyl, Br-vinyl, O-alkenyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, NO_2, amino, ~~loweralkylamino, or di(loweralkyl)amino,~~ NH_2, -NH(lower alkyl), -NH(acyl), -N(lower alkyl)$_2$, -N(acyl)$_2$;

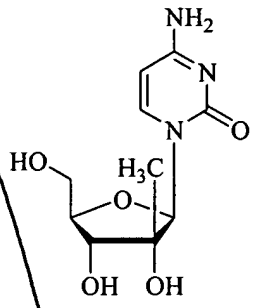
R^9 is OR^2, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, Br-vinyl, O-alkenyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, NO_2, amino, NH_2, -NH(lower alkyl), -NH(acyl), -N(lower alkyl)$_2$, -N(acyl)$_2$;

R^6 and R^8 ~~is~~ are independently H, alkyl ~~(including lower alkyl)~~, chlorine, bromine or iodine; ~~R^7 and R^9, or R^8 and R^9 can come together to form a bond;~~ and

X is O, S, SO_2 or CH_2.

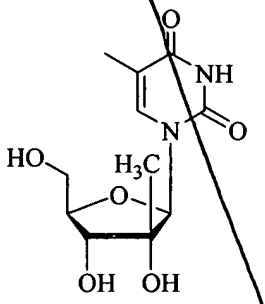
A1 cont'd

Claim 100 (currently amended): A method for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a compound of the structure:



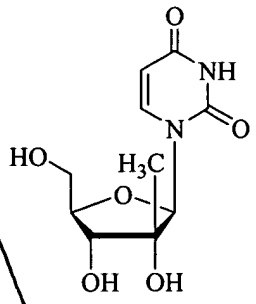
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 101 (currently amended): A method for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 102 (currently amended): A method for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 130 (new): The method of any one of claims 83, 86, 89, 90, 100, 101, 102, or 140-145, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for oral delivery.

Claim 131 (new): The method of any one of claims 83, 86, 89, 90, 100, 101, 102, or 140-145, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intravenous delivery.

Claim 132 (new): The method of any one of claims 83, 86, 89, 90, 100, 101, 102, or 140-145, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for parenteral delivery.

Claim 133 (new): The method of any one of claims 83, 86, 89, 90, 100, 101, 102, or 140-145, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intradermal delivery.

Claim 134 (new): The method of any one of claims 83, 86, 89, 90, 100, 101, 102, or 140-145, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for subcutaneous delivery.

Claim 135 (new): The method of any one of claims 83, 86, 89, 90, 100, 101, 102, or 140-145, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for topical delivery.

A1 cont'd

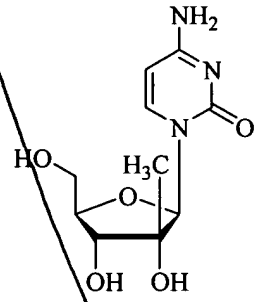
Claim 136 (new): The method of any one of claims 83, 86, 89, 90, 100, 101, 102, or 140-145, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit.

Claim 137 (new): The method of claim 136, wherein the dosage unit contains 10 to 1500 mg of the compound.

Claim 138 (new): The method of claim 136, wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

Claim 139 (new): The method of any one of claims 83, 86, 89, 90, 100, 101, or 102, wherein the host is a human.

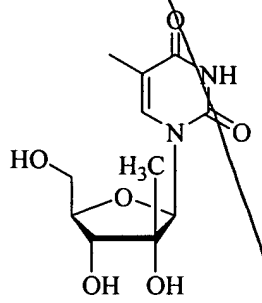
Claim 140 (new): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

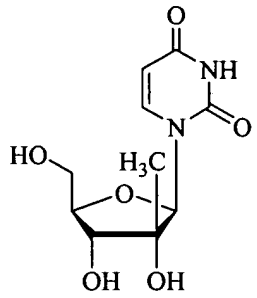
A1 cont'd

Claim 141 (new): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a compound of the structure:



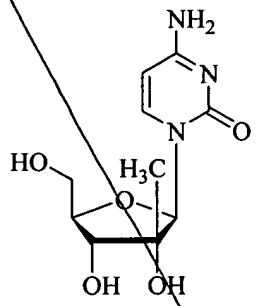
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 142 (new): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

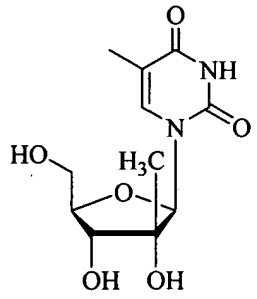
Claim 143 (new): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

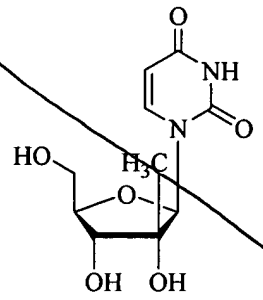
A1 contd

Claim 144 (new): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 145 (new): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

A' concld